

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A branch pipe joint comprising:

a branch pipe joint body having a hollow closed shape;

a plurality of communication ports formed in said branch pipe joint body;

a plurality of connecting pipes, each of which has one end portion fitted to said communication port and another end portion having a fitting portion adapted to be fitted to one of a plurality of pipes; and

a common communication port provided in said branch pipe joint body;

wherein sizes of at least two of said fitting portions are different from each other.

2. A kit for use as a branch pipe joint, comprising:

a branch pipe joint body having a hollow closed shape, wherein a common communication port and a plurality of branch communication ports are formed in said branch pipe joint body;

a plurality of connecting pipes each of which has one end portion adapted to be fitted to one of said branch communication ports and another end portion having a fitting portion adapted to be fitted to one of a plurality of pipes, wherein sizes of at least two of said fitting portions are different from each other,

wherein said branch pipe joint body and said connecting pipes are packed in the same package.

3. A branch pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein said fitting portions have different inner diameters.

4. A branch pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein said fitting portions have different outer diameters.

5. A branch pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein outer diameters of said one end portions of said plurality of connecting pipes are identical to each other.

6. A branch pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein said one end portions of said plurality of connecting pipes comprise inserting portions having the same shape as each other.

7. A branch pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein said communication ports are formed in a plurality of projecting portions provided in said branch pipe joint body.

5 8. A branch pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein inner diameters of said plurality of communication ports are identical to each other.

9. A branch pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein shapes of said plurality of communication ports are identical to each other.

10 10. A branch pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein said communication ports are formed by attaching pipe portions fixed to rising portions formed by burring opening portions of the branch pipe joint body.

11. A branch pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein a part of said pipes are directly connected to said attaching pipe portions.

12. A branch pipe joint according to claim 1, wherein said connecting pipes are welded to the communication ports.

13. A method of connecting pipe comprising the steps of:

preparing a branch pipe joint body having a hollow shape and a plurality of communication ports;

25 selecting connecting pipes to be fitted to a plurality of pipes which are to be connected to said branch pipe joint body from a group of various connecting pipes having different inner diameters, said connecting pipes and said branch pipe joint body having been packed in one package; and

connecting said pipes to said branch pipe joint body using the connecting pipes.

30 14. A method of connecting pipe according to claim 13, wherein said connecting pipes are selected from a group of connecting pipes each having an identical outer diameter at one end portion thereof.

15. A method of connecting pipe according to claim 13, wherein said connection is performed by fitting then welding said connecting pipes and the pipes.

16. A method of connecting pipe comprising the steps of:

preparing a branch pipe joint body having a hollow shape and a plurality of communication ports;

selecting connecting pipes to be fitted to a plurality of pipes which are to be connected to said branch pipe joint body from a group of at least one kind of connecting pipes having different inner diameters, said connecting pipes and said branch pipe joint body having been packed in one package; and

connecting a part of the pipes to said branch pipe joint body using the connecting pipes, while directly connecting remaining pipes to said branch pipe joint body.

17. A method of connecting pipe according to claim 16, wherein said connecting pipes are selected from a group consisting of connecting pipes, each having an identical outer diameter at one end portion thereof.

18. A method of connecting pipe according to claim 16, wherein said connection is performed by fitting then welding said connecting pipes and the pipes.